

Guatemala decided last week to overturn the conviction of Colonel Juan Valencia Osorio, the man convicted by a lower court of being the "intellectual author" of the murder of Myrna Mack, a well-known Guatemalan anthropologist. Before her murder on September 11, 1990, Myrna Mack had been conducting research on the massive displacement and destruction of rural indigenous communities which resulted from the Guatemalan military's counterinsurgency tactics and "scorched earth" policies that they employed during that country's 36-year-old civil war.

The appellate court also upheld the acquittals of General Augusto Godoy Gaitán and Colonel Juan Guillermo Oliva Carrera, who were accused of having masterminded, along with Colonel Valencia, the assassination of Myrna Mack. Thus, as a result of the appellate court's decision, the intellectual authors of Myrna Mack's murder remain at large thirteen years after the killing, and justice continues to be denied to her family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of special concern because of the fact that the officers who were just acquitted were members of the Presidential Security Guard (Estado Mayor Presidencial—EMP), a unit originally created to provide security for Guatemala's president, vice-president, and their respective families. Since its establishment, however, the EMP has been repeatedly implicated in some of Guatemala's most high-profile human rights abuses, including the 1998 murder of Bishop Juan Gerardi. It is important to note that General Godoy and Colonels Oliva and Valencia served as high-ranking officials in the EMP at the time of Bishop Gerardi's assassination.

It is my sincere hope, Mr. Speaker, that Guatemalan authorities will vigorously pursue justice in Myrna Mack's case, wherever it may lead, and I applaud key U.S. officials for continuing to urge strongly that the Guatemalan government strengthen the rule of law in that country and strip high-ranking military officers of the impunity that they apparently now enjoy.

**CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT
CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN**

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor President Chen Shui-Bian of Taiwan as he celebrates three years in office.

For more than fifty years the United States and Taiwan have had a valued cross-Pacific relationship. One million Americans of Taiwanese descent live in the United States and twenty nine thousand Taiwanese students attend American universities.

Taiwan and the US share close economic ties. In the last half century, Taiwan has grown to become our seventh largest trading partner.

Taiwan, however, is more than an economic ally. It has offered unwavering support in our efforts to confront terrorism. Taiwan's democratic success is also clear. It heeds its people's choice and turns over power after elections. It allows and encourages its people to participate in deliberations on their country's future.

In the wake of the SARS outbreak, it is imperative that Taiwan's twenty three million

people are allowed to participate in the World Health Organization's efforts to counteract this contagion. This can be achieved by granting Taiwan observer status in the WHO.

Taiwan and President Chen have been great allies and friends to the American people. I congratulate the people of Taiwan and President Chen on their many achievements.

**MISUNDERSTANDING IN THE
MATTER OF A CO-SPONSORSHIP**

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to correct a mistake for the record regarding a Member listed as an original co-sponsor on my bill, H.R. 1904. The gentleman from Virginia, Mr. SCOTT, was mistakenly added as an original co-sponsor to my bill, although he did not ask to be a co-sponsor of this bill. Yesterday, I made a unanimous consent requested to remove him as a co-sponsor, but the request could not be granted because the report on H.R. 1904 had already been filed. I thank Mr. SCOTT for his understanding in this matter.

**RUNAWAY, HOMELESS, AND MISSING
CHILDREN PROTECTION ACT**

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of H.R. 1925, the Runaway, Homeless and Missing Children Protection Act. This measure reauthorizes both the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program and the Missing Children's Assistance Act. This bill will also increase the funding levels for these programs through 2008.

In addition, this bill increases the funding level for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. This bill will double the funding level from \$10 million to \$20 million over the next four years.

As you may know, Mr. Speaker, I along with my colleague from Texas, Mr. LAMPSON and other Members, founded the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus. The Caucus was created to build awareness around the issue of missing and exploited children for the purpose of finding children who are currently missing and to prevent future abductions.

I applaud the efforts of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and of the Caucus under the chairmanship of Representative NICK LAMPSON. I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation and I yield back the balance of my time.

**TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LARRY COMBEST**

SPEECH OF

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Congressman LARRY COMBEST for his

service to this chamber and to the people of Texas. The 19th Congressional District of Texas has been diligently represented by Congressman COMBEST for over eighteen years since his initial election to Congress in 1984. LARRY's greatest accomplishments came during his reign as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. Under the leadership of Chairman COMBEST, the Agriculture Committee completed years of work in passing the Farm Bill that President George W. Bush signed into law last year.

Prior to being elected to the House of Representatives, LARRY was no stranger to Capitol Hill. He served as a legislative assistant to Senator John Tower of Texas from 1971 to 1978.

I've had the privilege of working alongside LARRY since I came to this body in 1997. I have come to know LARRY to be not only a hard-working colleague, but also a wonderful friend. He and his lovely wife Sharon will be greatly missed around these halls.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the very capable and intelligent staff of Congressman COMBEST. Among the staff, Congressman COMBEST's Senior Legislative Assistant, Taylor Bledsoe, will also shortly be leaving the Hill. Taylor has been a great asset to Congressman COMBEST, and is a good friend. I wish Taylor and his wife Jen all the best for their move back to the Lone Star State.

LARRY leaves behind Texas-sized shoes for his successor to fill. I wish LARRY and his family well. Thank you LARRY for your service to Texas and to the nation.

**CELEBRATING THE 325TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK**

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the community of New Paltz in Ulster County, New York, which is part of the 22nd Congressional District that I proudly serve. This year marks the 325th Anniversary of the founding of New Paltz, as well as the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the College of New Paltz. I am delighted to recognize this community's rich historical heritage and continued vitality, as the Town of New Paltz and State University of New York (SUNY) at New Paltz mark these important milestones.

New Paltz was founded in 1678 by Huguenot families who were seeking refuge from severe religious persecution in France. The community was self-governed by the Duzine, referring to the twelve partners who acquired the royal land patent in 1677 on more than 33,000 acres purchased from local Native Americans. The Duzine decided local matters and consisted of one representative from each of the original families. That form of government continued well past the time of the American Revolution, by special action of the New York State Legislature. New Paltz was dominated for more than 150 years by the founding partners and their heirs, whose family names can still be found today in the area.

The lands encompassed in the original patent, stretching all the way from the